

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## Consolidation of Schools Proposed in Chemung

Elmira — A central junior high school and an expanded kindergarten program are the key features in a consolidation proposal for Chemung County's Catholic elementary schools. A coordinating committee, headed by Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty, submitted the proposal to the Chemung County Catholic School Board last week (Nov. 24) in a meeting at St. Mary's Church auditorium.

The overall effect would be to cut back the present parochial school setup—one school, St. Anthony's, would be merged into nearby St. Casimir's while expanding the current religious formation program for Catholic children in public schools.

The area Christian Formation

### Bishop to Address Retreat League

Canandaigua — Bishop Hogan will address officers of the Notre Dame Retreat League at their annual meeting at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the retreat house here.

Father James F. Foley, CSSR., retreat house director, last week announced a change in the staff of the four priests at the house.

Father Arthur J. Finn, CSSR., who has been at the house since 1968 and who has been director of retreats since October, 1969, has been transferred to the assistant pastorate of the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Boston.

He has been succeeded by Father Donald Bolton, CSSR., a native of Buffalo, who was ordained in 1952. Father Bolton spent 16 years as a missionary in Brazil.

board, at the request of the coordinating committee, appended its proposals to those made for revamping the parochial school system. These included hiring a fulltime religious education coordinator for Chemung County and fulltime coordinators for each of five regions in the county.

The proposal for the elementary schools, called the Regional plan, includes these points:

- St. Patrick's School in central Elmira, would become a junior high school with an estimated enrollment of 385 pupils in grades 7 and 8.

- Four other schools in the various quadrants of the city would offer kindergarten through grade 6 education. These are St. Casimir's (north), St. Mary's (South), Ss. Peter and Paul (east) and Our Lady of Lourdes (west).

- St. Cecilia's, now running a joint school with neighboring Ss. Peter and Paul's, would bus its present four grades to its partner school, but open a kindergarten to serve both parishes.

- The Horsehead's parochial school of Mary Our Mother would not participate in the junior high program, but may add a kindergarten, at its option, to its existing 1-8 operation.

While St. Anthony's School, now housing only 85 pupils in four grades, would be phased out as an elementary school, it would be used as a religious education center for Catholic youngsters attending nearby public schools.

The proposal should effect a savings of approximately \$72,000 in the 1971-72 school year,

according to Dr. Thomas R. Curran, who presented the proposal.

Four buses would be necessary to implement the committee's recommendations. Three of these would be in daily use, the fourth would be on stand-by readiness. Most of the pupils bused would be those going to the proposed junior high at St. Patrick's. The 1-6 grade students now at St. Patrick's would attend the three adjacent schools nearest their respective homes.

Dr. Curran emphasized the need to retain a Catholic school on the east side of Elmira. "The Church must be present serving in an effective way, where the economic needs are greatest," he stressed.

The proposal will be discussed at a public meeting slated for Notre Dame High School tomorrow (Dec. 3) and then be voted on by the Catholic School Board on Dec. 10.

If accepted by the board, the proposal (or some alternate) goes to a diocesan Education Task Force established last summer, and then forwarded to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

### Bishop Kearney To be Honored By Laymen's Group

Bishop James E. Kearney will be the guest speaker at the second Mass League/First Friday Club luncheon Friday Dec. 4 at the Holiday Inn-Downtown.

According to Daniel J. Morgan, Mass League Luncheon Chairman and William Bennett, Jr., First Friday Club Luncheon Chairman, it is customary for Bishop Kearney to speak at the December event.

Bennett said, "According to this tradition, we present the Bishop with a gift each year at Christmas time in recognition of the fine work he carried on throughout his many years as Bishop of Rochester."

### Catholic Alumnae Slate Bp. Kearney

Bishop James E. Kearney will offer a Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for members and friends of Rochester Circle, International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in the Cenacle Retreat House, East Avenue.

Reservations for breakfast following the Mass may be made with Mrs. Edward Lynd (716/473-9200) or Mrs. Malcolm Stevenson (716/288-2723).

## Statues Make News

Erection of statues on church building exteriors in the adjoining townships of Greece and Gates made news last week.

The "Lady of the Hill," a half-ton granite statue of the Blessed Mother, was ordered back to her traditional place at the front of the former historic Our Mother of Sorrows Church building in Greece — now leased by the town for use as a public library.

Father George S. Wood, pastor, noted that the lease states

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### Educational Task Force Holds Annual Meet

Parochial school problems are discussed at Educational Task Force meeting in Geneva on Nov. 19. Pictured from left are: Albert Pace, St. Mary's, Waterloo; James Tehan, St. Michael's, Penn Yan; Mrs. Frederick Toole, St. Stephen's, Geneva; Mrs. Anthony DeStaffan, St. Michael's, Newark; Blake Duffy, St. Ann's, Palmyra; Nicholas Medey, St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls.



Among parish representatives at Educational Task Force meeting in Dansville were (from left): Donald Koehler, St. Ann's, Hornell; Patrick Crowley, St. Patrick's, Mt. Morris; Mrs. Crowley; Karal Anders, St. Mary's, Bath; John Vonglis, St. Agnes, Avon; Anthony Mark, St. Mary's, Dansville; Robert McAllister, St. Joseph's, Wayland.



### Winter Cruise Dance

Waving "Bon Voyage" for the McQuaid Parents Winter-Cruise Dance, to be held Saturday, Dec. 5, are (l-r) Mr. and Mrs. John Blair, Mrs. Felix E. Whittaker, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Sullivan. Voyage time for the dance in the high school is 9 p.m. Eddie Meath is cruise master and Joe DiNardo's Orchestra will play.

### Pupils Teach At CCD Workshop

Kenneth Sarkis, a junior high teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes, was assisted by 50 elementary and junior high school pupils in a presentation of "Christ-life" in the classroom, at a

workshop for 100 religion teachers Nov. 22 at Sacred Heart.

Sarkis demonstrated how lighting (from strobe to candle light), films, records, poetry and song can evoke student reaction, participation and reflection. His students performed a dance which he had choreographed to Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," and Unity Builders Association, an eighth grade group from Lourdes, sang.

A panel of students from Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Michael schools, and Brighton, Monroe, and Spencerport high schools, discussed their views on religion and the role of the teacher.

Sister Alice Cooney, Elementary Coordinator for the Diocesan Department of Religious Education-CCD, commented that the workshop had shown her the "potential of young people" to express religious feelings.



Among Rochester Comitium Legion of Mary members attending workshop at St. Bernard's Seminary were, from left: Mrs. Helen Pisaro, St. Vincent de Paul parish, Churchville; Edward Adams, Sacred Heart Cathedral; Miss Erma D'Argento, St. Andrew's; Miss Virginia Wallace, Auburn Curia; Father William Trott, Comitium spiritual director; Miss Lucille Kunz, St. Michael's; Miss Geraldine Crowley, St. Augustine's; Mrs. Bernadine Begley, Our Mother of Sorrows; Gerald Coursey, St. Thomas the Apostle.

## 100 Attend Workshop

Today's need for the Christian's concern for the Church and society was stressed at a Legion of Mary workshop at St. Bernard's Seminary on Saturday, Nov. 21.

More than 100 members of the Legion's Rochester Comitium attended the sessions, which included guests from New York City and Buffalo.

Father Albert J. Shamon, diocesan vicar for education, in the keynote address emphasized

the need for dedicated laymen, and for concern, integrity, understanding, sharing, sincerity and awareness in the life of the Christian.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, who closed the day-long conference with celebration of Mass, pointed out the necessity not only for action but for frequent communication with the Lord and his Blessed Mother through prayer and the liturgy.